

**Q. When will the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Notice of Proposed Rulemaking be published?**

**A.** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), enacted July 22, 2014, provides many opportunities to advance a customer-centered workforce investment system driven by the needs of job seekers and employers, to support strong regional economies, and to provide individuals with pathways to the middle class and beyond.

WIOA establishes an aggressive timeframe for the Departments of Labor and Education to publish a set of regulations for implementation. The Departments continue to work diligently together to develop these regulations, informed in part by outreach to outside stakeholders, as appropriate. While we continue to work toward completion of this important and complex proposal, the publication of the proposed regulations is currently anticipated to occur in Spring 2015, rather than January 18, 2015, as stipulated in WIOA.

In Spring 2015, the Departments of Labor and Education plan to concurrently publish five Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) to implement WIOA. One of these will be a joint NPRM involving jointly administered activities including unified and combined state plans, performance, and aspects of the one-stop system. Another NPRM will implement the remaining provisions of Title I and Title III that are administered by the Department of Labor. Three additional NPRMs involve Department of Education programs, including one implementing Title II Adult Education and Literacy and two implementing the Title IV Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 of WIOA. These five NPRMs will be published in the Federal Register and posted on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), where public comments can be submitted following publication. The Departments of Labor and Education will analyze these public comments, and anticipate issuing Final Rules implementing WIOA in early 2016.

Because many provisions of WIOA go into effect July 1, 2015, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) also will issue operating guidance in Spring 2015 to support implementation. In addition, ETA intends to issue targeted guidance documents in the Spring, accompanied by technical assistance activities. Once issued, the guidance can be accessed at [www.doleta.gov/WIOA/](http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/).

To achieve successful implementation and the full vision of WIOA, ETA will continue to consult with the workforce system and strongly advises states and local areas to begin planning and taking action to prepare to implement WIOA immediately. There are legislative and technical assistance tools currently available at [www.doleta.gov/wioa](http://www.doleta.gov/wioa) that can support initial WIOA transitional activities.